[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

views on one point only then zero hour will lose its importance.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Our colleagues have given their names. I think they should be called if they had given their names.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling them.

[Interruptions]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is okay. You may call them afterwords.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call them.

[Interruptions]

MR. CHAIRMAN : But I will call them strictly according to the list given by the hon. Speaker. I will not call anybody who shouts like that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please get me the reply...*(Interruptions)*... Or ask him to give an assurance...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. There will be no reply.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (KANGRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Himachal Pradesh, we are having some floods. We are having incessant rains and the entire crop has been damaged. The fruits have been perished. There are no seed takers for potato. We are in a great agony and anguish. The whole of Himachal Pradesh is reeling under flood. Eighty-five per cent of the Himachal Pradesh region is dependent on horticulture and agriculture...*(Interruptions)* Please let me speak. Eighty-Five per cent of the agriculturists are in problem.

[Translation]

Let me speak. You are from my party...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

My request to the Central Government through you is that from the Ministry of Agriculture a team should be despatched immediately to survey the losses and immediate steps should be taken to give relief to the farmers. We are in a great trouble. We are a poor State and we are totally in anguish and in agony. Our farmers' backbone has been broken. Sir, we request you that immediate steps should be taken.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADAVPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I draw the attention of the agitated Members of the House to a different problem altogether? I want to draw the attention of the House to the handling of wheat vessels which carry imported wheat from Australia, Canada and other countries through different ports of India ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : The Food Corporation of India had decided in a meeting in December 1996 the quantum of imported wheat to be handled by different ports of India. Calcutta and Haldia were allotted 60,000 metric tonnes of wheat. Calcutta Port has a Silo Plant which is unique in Asia. This plant makes unloading of bulk of wheat easy and smooth. The plant was kept in readiness in expectation.

But for some mysterious reason, not a single metric tonne of wheat arrived in Calcutta Port or in Haldia Port. The vessels were directed to other ports which are under private stevedores. This is the most vital point.

Will the Government clarify the position and explain why Calcutta and Haldia were deprived and the allocation order was not followed ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the time of speaking on the confidence Motion the Prime Minister, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, said that both potable water and environment would his first priority. Construction of a barrage on Yamuna in Agra was approved both by the Centre and the State Governments. The Hon. Governor during the President's Rule laid its foundation stone as well but now it is being said that the Central Government has not given its approaval to the barrage till date. The reason being given by the Central Government is that it does not know about its estimated cost and how to manage the funds to be spent on it. But the planning Commission has made allocations for this and the mission, management board which has been formed at the behest of Planning Commission has also made provisions. Some objections are being raised from the point of view of environment. A ridiculous situation has been created. During the President's Rule, the Governor laid its foundation stone on behalf of the President and now the Central Government is not giving permission. The people are being made the scapgoat on very filmsy grounds. Gokul Barrage is being constructed. It's water would be stored in the Yamuna Barrage at Agra. Crores of rupees have been spent on Gokul Barrage and now it will go waste. Therefore, my submission through you is that the Yamuna barrage which is being constructed in Agra should be approved at the earliest. The Hon. Prime Minister is not present here, otherwise I would have urged him but now I would like to urge the Government that a Committee

should be constituted under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary and action be taken at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dinsha Patel, you will get time. You cannot do bulldozing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : I have been trying to raise the point for the last three days.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have been standing for the last ten days but you will get a chance when your turn comes and not before that.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the newly converted Ahmedabad-Delhi railway line and the hon. Railway Minister presided over the function. According to the rule all the hon. Members of Gujarat should have been invited. I am the member of the additional railway standing Committee. I myself had raised this motion on 2nd May because I was not invited. Many Hon. Members from Gujarat were not invited viz. Shri Jaisinh Chauhan, Shri Gopal Singh Solanki, Shri Sanat Mehta, Shri Satyajeet Singh Gaikwad, Shri P.S. Gadhvi, Shri Anant Dave, Shrimati Bhavnaben Chikhlia, Shri Daleep Sanghani, Shri Ratilal Verma and Shri Chitubhai Gamit. When the issue was raised in the House before the hon. Railway Minister gave me a personal invitation. The inauguration is to take place in Ahmedabad and the advertisement to this effect appears in Calcutta and 50 other newspapers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given in writing. Please be confined to that subject only.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : I am speaking on that only.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (SURENDRA NAGAR) : I never say an unfair thing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : The Hon. Railway Minister has deliberately made an evasive statement and besides such a wrong clarification by the hon. Minister is against the established convention of the House for which he should be compelled to apologise in the House. In case he does not do so, action should be taken against him for working against the democratic decorum.

Sir, I am not extra ordinary civilized but at least I am an ordinary civilized person. I am not a VVIP but an ordinary Member of Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At least speak on what you have given in writing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : It is a disgrace to all of our hon. Members. Therefore ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ten hon. Members are yet to speak. You have got a chance and confine to what you have given in writing.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : It did not happen for the first time when Devegowdaji was the Prime Minister, he visited my district, at that time also we were not invited. I would like to know how is it going on. I would like to urge the hon. Minister that whenever the hon. Prime Minister visits Gujarat or anywhere else all the hon. Members of that area should be invited. This much is my submission.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a very good point.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue. Delhi Rent Act has been passed in this House but all the political parties of Delhi have passed a resolution against it and have sent it to the Standing Committee and to the Central Government. Both the hon. Prime Minister and the concerned Minister have said that it would be amended. This issue has been raised in the House several times. Today, the High Court has ordered that this should be implemented by the Government. When the law has not yet been notified then how can the Court say that it should be implemented.

Sir, lakhs of Delhites have been affected by it and it should not be implemented. I would like to urge the Government that it should be amended and only then it should be passed other wise lakhs of people will be rendered homeless. I urge the Government, through you that it should reassure, since it has said many times. Do they want to back out of their promise?

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I draw the attention of the Government of India as well as the Members of this House to a serious matter of West Bengal. In West Bengal, eight districts, including North and South 24 Paraganas are seriously affected by the arsenic polluted water in both rural and urban areas. The people of those districts are compelled to drink or rather swallow this arsenic polluted water as there is no other source of safe and pure drinking water available. Due to this, the people have been seriously affected and they are suffering from various kinds of serious diseases for a considerably long period. The international health organisations and the experts of different health organisations have expressed their view and also given the warning that if these things are not being checked, the people will suffer irreparable loss and injury and that will create havoc in the eight districts of West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government of West Bengal have taken some steps.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your point. Please take your seat.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, immediate action should be taken in this regard. Thank you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, this is a very serious problem. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should pass on this information to the Health Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir,